

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 09752 141807Z

15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W
----- 107138

R 141517Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6774
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION UN
USDOCOSOUTH
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 9752

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR GR TU
SUBJECT: GREEK REACTION TO HAGUE DECISION

1. THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AT THE HAGUE REJECTING THE GREEK REQUEST FOR INTERIM MEASURES OF PROTECTION AGAINST TURKISH EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE AEGEAN HAS PRODUCED RATHER SMALL RIPPLES IN GREECE.

2. THE COURT DECISION SURPRISED ALMOST NO ONE IN GREECE, SINCE IT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED FOR ALMOST A WEEK IN THE GREEK PRESS. ONCE THE DECISION WAS ANNOUNCED, THE GOG BEGAN BACKGROUNDING THE PRESS PROVIDING ARGUMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO "LEGAL SOURCES" ON HOW THE GREEK REQUEST, AND THE COURT DECISION, PRODUCED BOTH REAL AND POTENTIAL BENEFITS FOR THE RIGHTS GREECE IS ASSERTING IN THE AEGEAN. (THE BACKGROUNDING WAS BASED ON A LEGAL ANALYSIS OF THE ICJ DECISION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS CIRCULATED UNOFFICIALLY BY THE GOG TO NEWSPAPER EDITORS BUT WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION.) THESE ARGUMENTS RANGED FROM THE OPINION THAT THE COURT DECISION GAVE A "LEGAL VARNISH" TO THE DECISION OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 09752 141807Z

SECURITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDING DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS

BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY TO THE ASSERTION THAT "THE COURT ACCEPTS...THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SISMIK SHOULD HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT WITH GREECE'S CONSENT (IF GREECE IS, OF COURSE, JUSTIFIED IN THE PENDING MAIN HEARING OF SUBSTANCE)" AND THAT "THESE ACTIVITIES (IN THE EVENT THAT THE WORLD COURT, WHEN IT HEARS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE COMPLAINT, DECIDES THAT GREECE HAS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF) GIVE GREECE THE RIGHT TO DEMAND COMPENSATION."

3. OPPOSITION REACTION TO THE COURT DECISION WAS MIXED. GEORGE MAVROS, LEADER OF THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER, SOUGHT TO DIMINISH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COURT'S FINDING. IN ESSENCE, MAVROS ARGUED THAT THE COURT DECISION WAS IRRELEVANT, SINCE THE MATTER IS NOW A SUBJECT OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND SINCE THE GREEK REQUEST FOR THE COURT TO DELIMIT THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IS STILL PENDING. MAVROS REFUSAL TO LEAP ON THE GOVT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A MOST WELCOME DEVELOPMENT FOR THE GOG, WHICH CAN LIVE WITH HIS RATHER MINOR CARP THAT ONCE THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAD ACTED THE GREEK SIDE SHOULD HAVE SUSPENDED ITS REQUEST FOR INTERIM MEASURES.

4. IN CONTRAST TO THE MODERATE AND GENERALLY HELPFUL STAND TAKEN BY MAVROS, ANDREAS PAPANDREOU PASOK PARTY PLAYED "I TOLD YOU SO". REFERENCING PAPANDREOU'S ORIGINAL CRITICISM OF THE DECISION TO GO TO THE COURT, PASOK SOURCES STATED LACONICALLY, "WE SINCERELY REGRET THAT OUR FORECASTS ABOUT THE DECISION CAME TRUE", LEAVING THE PUBLIC TO CONTRAST PAPANDREOU'S FORESIGHT TO THE IMPLIED CLUMSINESS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

5. THE PRESS PROMINENTLY REPORTED THE DECISION. PRO-GOVT NEWS MEDIA GAVE FULL AND PARTISAN PLAY TO THE GOVT'S EXEGESIS OF ITS MEANING FOR GREECE (SAMPLE HEADLINES: "THE HAGUE SAYS HORA'S ACTIVITIES ILLEGAL", ACROPOLIS - CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVT; "THE SISMIK IS ILLEGAL IN THE AEGEAN", VRADYNI - CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 09752 141807Z

CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVT). ON THE OTHER HAND, COMMUNIST RIZOSPASTIS HEADLINED OVER A SMALL STORY: "GREEK REQUEST FOR PROVISIONAL MEASURES IN THE AEGEAN REJECTED" AND THE LEFTIST, OPPOSITION TA NEA HEADLINED "OPPOSITION CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT - OUR REQUEST TO THE HAGUE SHOULD HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN".

6. COMMENT: OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT THE

GOVERNMENT DID NOT SUFFER SIGNIFICANTLY DOMESTICALLY
AS A RESULT OF THE COURT DECISION. THE COMPLEXITIES
OF THE ISSUE, THE GOVT'S CARE IN BACKGROUNDING THE
PRESS PROMPTLY AND THOROUGHLY, AND THE HELP-
FULNESS OF MAVROS, ALL CONTRIBUTED TO LIMITING
THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO THE GOG'S INTERNAL POSITION.
KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, COURT DECISIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS09752
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760347-0439
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760964/aaaaccvb.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK REACTION TO HAGUE DECISION
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006